



**For Immediate Release**

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## **M-NCPPC and County Council Announce Donation of Broad Run Property**

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) Montgomery County Planning Board and the Montgomery County Council are pleased to announce the first donation of parkland to the Commission under the Legacy Open Space program. The 106-acre property, the first piece of the new Broad Run Stream Valley Park, was donated by Mr. Hossein Sarrami and Mrs. Zohreh Bakhshizadeh to the Montgomery County park system. The property is located off Edward's Ferry Road southwest of Poolesville.

The donated site, valued at \$400,000, is largely forested and contains a stretch of the lower mainstem of Broad Run and three small tributaries. The forest on the property is high quality and contains a variety of mature native tree species and understory plant species. The property abuts the C&O Canal Historic Park and other federal lands. As the first piece of the Broad Run Stream Valley Park envisioned in the Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan, the property will be maintained in its existing condition until future land acquisition and a management plan are completed. An implementation study is currently underway to plan for protection of the Broad Run stream valley system through a variety of tools, including easements, stream valley reforestation, and park acquisition in critical areas.

Donations of land to the park system are an important element of implementing the Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan. Initial funding support for the Legacy program comes from County general obligation and park bonds. Additional revenue is targeted to come from a variety of non-County sources, including corporations, state and federal agencies, municipalities, and individual gifts. The Commission encourages private landowners to consider gifts of land to take advantage of the many tax benefits from donations of appreciated assets as part of their financial and estate planning. The Commission has also partnered with the Montgomery Parks Foundation to coordinate private donations to the program.

“Donations of land to the park system are an important way in which we can protect critical resources in the County without expending more scarce tax dollars,” said Montgomery County Planning Board Chairman Derick P. Berlage. “We want to thank Mr. Sarrami for his generosity and thoughtfulness in caring for the future of Montgomery County through his donation of this beautiful piece of land which will be the cornerstone of our new Broad Run Stream Valley Park.”

“When the County Council approved the Legacy Open Space program, we knew it would take all kinds of contributions – outright purchases, donations, and easements – to make it a success,” said Councilmember Nancy Dacek. “This generous donation of 106 acres is exactly the kind of thing we hoped would happen and I’m delighted.”

The donation of this Broad Run Stream Valley Park property is one of four Legacy Open Space properties being announced today. “These four acquisitions are real evidence of the strong commitment this County has made to preserving existing open spaces for our kids and our grandkids,” said Council President Steve Silverman. “That’s why the Council has stepped up to the plate to provide funding now for this vital purpose – before properties such as these are lost forever.”

Legacy Open Space is a bold, 10-year initiative proposed by the Planning Board and approved by the Montgomery County Council to conserve and steward land of exceptional value. The Legacy Open Space Functional Master Plan identifies methods for protecting sensitive natural resources, water supply areas, heritage resources, greenways and trail connections, farmland and rural open space, and urban open space. Some resources may be purchased and added to the park system, while others may be protected through easement or public/private partnerships. A total of 1,290 acres of land has so far been protected throughout the County under the Legacy Open Space program since the program’s inception in 2000.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission encourages the involvement and participation of all individuals in its facilities and programs. For assistance with special needs, such as sign language interpretation, large print materials, listening devices, etc., contact the Community Relations Office, 301-495-4600, TTY 301-495-1331 or the Maryland Relay Service, 1-800-735-2258.

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